

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4840

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ENRG CA US

SUBJ PIPELINE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

1. ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD WAS ASKED IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD OCTOBER 22 WHETHER PIPELINE NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. ARE BEING LIMITED TO PIPELINES TRAVERSING CANADIAN TERRITORY, "OR ARE THE AMERICANS RAISING THE ISSUE OF SECURITY OF SUPPLY FOR PIPELINES GOING ACROSS U.S. TERRITORY OF WHICH CANADIANS HAVE CONTROL?" MACDONALD REPLIED THAT, "THIS DOES NOT SO MUCH INVOLVE SECURITY OF SUPPLY AS IT DOES THE CONCEPT SET OUT BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN THIS HOUSE IN DECEMBER 1973, THAT THIS SHOULD BE A MUTUALLY RECIPROCAL TREATY COVERING BOTH UNITED STATES PIPELINES CROSSING CANADIAN TERRITORY AND CANADIAN PIPELINES CROSSING U.S. TERRITORY, AS NOW EXIST OR MAY EXIST IN THE FUTURE."

2. THE QUESTIONER (SYMES, SAULT STE. MARIE) THEN ASKED, "IN VIEW OF THE FACT THE CANADIAN BARGAINING POSITION IS SERIOUSLY WEAKENED BECAUSE WE ARE DEPENDENT ON PIPELINES CROSSING U.S. TERRITORY IS THE GOVERNMENT EXCLUDING THAT AS PART OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BARGAINING FROM
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AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW, OR IS IT SERIOUSLY
CONSIDERING BUILDING THAT ALL-CANADIAN PIPELINE

THROUGH NORTHERN ONTARIO?" MACDONALD REPLIED THAT
"IT SEEMS TO US AT THIS STAGE THAT SECURING THE
EXISTING ROUTES IS THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE, AND THIS
IS WHAT WE WILL BE SEEKING."
PORTER

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